

REMARKS

Applicant, by the arguments and evidence presented herein, has made a concerted effort to present claims which clearly define over the prior art of record, and thus to place this case in condition for allowance.

In the final Office Action mailed November 26, 2008, the Examiner rejected the claims under Section 103, citing United States Patent No. 5,424,104 (Amimoto) and Japanese Patent Nos. 11-106570 (Yamamoto) and 09-059431 (Yamamoto et al.). Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejections in light of the following evidence.

As noted by the Examiner, Amimoto describes the use of multiple antioxidants. All Amimoto teaches, however, is that the antioxidants "can be used singly or in combination" (column 12, lines 22-23, in connection with phosphorus antioxidants) (column 13, lines 11-12, in connection with other antioxidants). Amimoto lists a great number of antioxidants (for example, column 11, line 59 to column 13, line 10). Applicant acknowledges that some of these antioxidants may have melting points within the range of 70 to 170 °C and others may have melting points within the range of 180 to 300 °C.

Applicant's claimed ranges, however, produce unexpected and synergistic effects not taught or suggested by the cited references. By selecting a first antioxidant having a melting point in the range of 70 to 170 °C, a second antioxidant having a melting point in the range of 180 to 300 °C, and a polyamide having a melting point in the range of 160 to 265 °C, Applicant produces the following unexpected and synergistic effects:

1. Ability to knead and disburse the polyamide in the form of fiber;

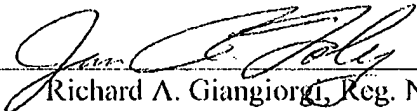
2. Preventing high-temperature deterioration of the polyamide;
3. Preventing scorching and thermal decomposition of the polyolefin; and
4. Enabling longer operating time, and therefore increased productivity, by avoiding stopping to dismantle the extruder in order to clean and remove scorches.

Applicant relies on the Declaration of Norishige Kawaguchi, attached hereto.

In view of the above evidence and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims of the application are allowable over the rejections of the Examiner. Should the present claims not be deemed adequate to effectively define the patentable subject matter, the Examiner is respectfully urged to call the undersigned attorney of record to discuss the claims in an effort to reach an agreement toward allowance of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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